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Economic and Social Council

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**Commission on Population and Development**
**Forty-ninth session**
11-15 April 2016
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

# Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.
4. General debate on national experience in population matters: "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda".
5. General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the Economic and Social Council theme in 2016 on "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results".
6. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
7. Review of the functioning of the methods of work of the Commission.
8. Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission.
9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session.

## Annotations

### 1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair, one or more Vice-Chairs and such other officers as may be required.

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In accordance with Council decision 2005/213, the Commission, immediately following the closure of its forty-eighth session, held the first meeting of its forty-ninth session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other officers of the Commission. The Commission elected Mwaba Patricia Kasese-Bota (Zambia) as Chair and Nadine Skale (Germany) and Patricia Chemor Ruíz (Mexico) as Vice-Chairs for the forty-ninth session. At the second meeting of its forty-ninth session, to be held on 11 April 2016, the Commission will elect the Vice-Chairs nominated by the groups of Asia-Pacific States and Eastern European States.

The membership of the Commission at its forty-ninth session is provided in the annex.

## 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council requires that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

On the recommendation of the Commission at its forty-eighth session, the Council, in its decision 2015/253 (see A/70/3, chap. X, sect. I), approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-ninth session of the Commission.

At its thirtieth session, the Commission decided to authorize its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions on a yearly basis (see E/1997/25, para. 52). At its thirty-ninth session, in its resolution 2006/1 (see E/2006/25, chap. I.B), the Commission requested its Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for its annual sessions. The Commission has before it the report of the Bureau on its intersessional meetings.

**Documentation**

Provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2016/1)

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2016/2)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2016/L.1)

## 3. Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

In its resolution 49/128, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, the General Assembly decided that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

In the terms of reference of the Commission (see E/1995/27, annex I, sect. I.A), which were endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1995/55, the Commission was called upon to adopt a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year programme. That work programme would, inter alia, provide a framework for assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action. In its report on its twenty-eighth session, of which the Council took note in its decision 1995/236, the

Commission called for the preparation of annual reports on a selected topic of the Programme of Action (see E/1995/27, annex I, sect. III).

At its twenty-first special session, the General Assembly, in its resolution S-21/2, adopted the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

In its decision 2015/101 (see E/2015/25, chap. I.B), the Commission decided that the theme for its forty-ninth session in 2016 should be "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda".

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2016/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2016/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2016/5)

**4. General debate on national experience in population matters: "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda"**

The Commission has concluded that it would be useful to make provision in its agenda for a general debate on population matters relating to the theme of its forty-ninth session. Under this item, Governments would report on national experience in meeting the goals and objectives set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development as they relate to strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda.

**5. General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the Economic and Social Council theme in 2016 on "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results"**

At its forty-first session, the Commission heard an address by the President of the Economic and Social Council on the various ways in which the Commission might contribute to the new mandates of the Council (see E/2008/25, chap. V). In response, the Commission added this item to its annual agenda. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission will discuss the contributions it could make to the Council theme "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results". The Bureau of the Commission decided to invite the President of the Council to address the Commission under agenda item 5 in order to reflect on the linkages between the themes of the Commission and of the Council in 2016, and on related topics.

**6. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population**

At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission suggested that the work programme in the field of population should continue, inter alia, to give high priority to the

monitoring of population trends and policies and include the biennial preparation of estimates and projections of global, national, urban, rural and city populations; the conduct of studies on population and related development policies; the preparation of studies on interactions of population change with other development processes; the conduct of analyses of mortality; contribution to and coordination of in-depth studies on fertility, nuptiality and reproductive rights and health, including family planning; the conduct of studies to improve the understanding of the causes and consequences of internal migration and international migration; increasing public awareness of and information exchange on population and development issues; making the necessary arrangements for coordinating the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action; and the provision of technical cooperation support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition in the light of the economic and social problems that those countries faced at that time (see E/1995/27, annex II). The Commission reaffirmed the content of the work programme at its twenty-ninth session (Commission resolution 1996/1, see E/1996/25, chap. I.C).

At its thirtieth session, the Commission stressed the importance of continuing the basic work of the Population Division of the Secretariat on the crucial underpinnings of population estimates and projections; basic population trends and issues, including fertility, mortality, migration and patterns of rural and urban population change; the evolution of population policies; and understanding of the links between population and development (Commission resolution 1997/3, see E/1997/25, chap. I.C). At its thirty-seventh session, the Commission reaffirmed the importance of the work of the Population Division in providing the United Nations system and the international community with comprehensive and scientifically sound inputs for the analysis of progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on population and development set in the outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences, especially the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (Commission resolution 2004/1, see E/2004/25, chap. I.B). At the same session, the Commission further emphasized that the Population Division should continue its basic work on population estimates and projections; patterns of rural and urban population change; the analysis of international migration; the implications of the changing age structure of the population for development; the increasing diversity of fertility and mortality levels and trends; the interrelations among population, resources, the environment and development; and the evolution of population policies, applying a gender perspective in this regard (Commission resolution 2004/1).

As indicated in the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 7)), the objective of the Organization under the subprogramme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the international development agenda. Pursuant to paragraph 7.11 of the proposed strategic framework, the Population Division is the entity responsible for the subprogramme on population, the mandate of which is to be achieved by: (a) providing substantive support to United Nations bodies, especially the Commission on Population and Development, assessing progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the achievement of the internationally agreed

development goals and following up on the decision of the General Assembly to extend the Programme of Action beyond 2014; (b) facilitating the discussion of key or emerging population issues by experts or Government representatives; (c) preparing comprehensive studies on population issues and trends relating to fertility, family planning, mortality, international and internal migration, urbanization, population growth, population ageing, population projections, population policy and population in relation to development; (d) disseminating population information and policy-relevant findings in the area of population, through the Population Division websites; and (e) supporting capacity development to address population issues through workshops or the dissemination of technical material, such as manuals and software, in collaboration with other subprogrammes and entities in related areas.

The Commission has before it for consideration the relevant section of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs). The Commission is invited to review the proposal and provide comments.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2016/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2015: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2016/7)

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs (E/CN.9/2016/CRP.1)

## 7. Review of the functioning of the methods of work of the Commission

At its fifty-fifth meeting, on 22 July 2015, the Economic and Social Council adopted decision 2015/252 entitled "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development", as recommended by the Commission (see E/2015/25, chap. I, sect. A). According to this decision, the Commission shall review the functioning of its methods of work during its forty-ninth session in 2016, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission and its contribution to the Council.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2016/8)

## 8. Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission has before it the draft provisional agenda for its fiftieth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

The attention of the Commission is drawn to Council resolutions 1979/41 and 1981/83 on the control and limitation of documentation. In addition, the Commission is reminded that the Council, in paragraph 1 (j) of its resolution 1982/50 on the revitalization of the Council, urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the provisions of the decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation.

The attention of the Commission is also drawn to paragraph 4 of the annex to Council resolution 1982/50, in which the Secretary-General recommended that: (a) the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the Assembly be streamlined in order to enable the subsidiary bodies to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them; (b) the Council and the Assembly continue to review the provisional agendas for their subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency in the overall request for documentation and its orderly consideration at the intergovernmental level, taking fully into account the medium-term plan and the programme budget; and (c) in doing so, the Council and the Assembly also take into account the need for the consolidation of items and documentation for their subsidiary machinery.

Furthermore, in its resolution 1981/83, the Council instructed its subsidiary bodies to take urgent measures to streamline their agendas and programmes of work and to bring about a substantial reduction in their requests for documents, bearing in mind the duration and the cycles of their meetings, and to report to the Council on measures adopted, taking strictly into account the guidelines set forth in the pertinent resolutions and decisions of the Council and the Assembly.

In decision 1983/163, the Council requested the Secretary-General: (a) to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources; and (b) to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2016/L.2)

## 9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission shall submit a report to the Council on the work of each session.

# Annex

## Membership of the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-ninth session (2016)

**(45 members; four-year term)**

| | *Term expires at close of session in the year* |
|---|---|
| Argentina | 2018 |
| Bangladesh | 2017 |
| Belarus | 2019 |
| Belgium | 2017 |
| Benin | 2018 |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 2019 |
| Brazil | 2017 |
| Burundi | 2019 |
| Chad | 2017 |
| China | 2018 |
| Denmark | 2017 |
| Dominican Republic | 2018 |
| Egypt | 2016 |
| Germany | 2018 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 2019 |
| Iraq | 2017 |
| Israel | 2019 |
| Jamaica | 2019 |
| Japan | 2016 |
| Liberia | 2018 |
| Madagascar | 2017 |
| Malaysia | 2018 |
| Mexico | 2017 |
| Mongolia | 2018 |
| Netherlands | 2017 |

| | *Term expires at close of session in the year* |
|---|---|
| Nigeria | 2017 |
| Norway | 2016 |
| Oman | 2017 |
| Pakistan | 2018 |
| Peru | 2018 |
| Philippines | 2019 |
| Republic of Moldova | 2016 |
| Romania | 2017 |
| Russian Federation | 2018 |
| Serbia | 2018 |
| Sierra Leone | 2019 |
| South Africa | 2018 |
| Spain | 2016 |
| Switzerland | 2017 |
| Uganda | 2016 |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 2018 |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 2016 |
| United States of America | 2018 |
| Uruguay | 2017 |
| Zambia | 2018 |

*Note*: At its 5th meeting, on 12 November 2015, the Economic and Social Council elected Finland to fill an outstanding vacancy on the Commission for a term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fiftieth session in 2016 and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-third session in 2020. The Council postponed the election of one member from the Group of Asia-Pacific States and one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, both for terms beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's forty-ninth session in 2016, and postponed the election of one member from the Group of Western European and other States for a term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fiftieth session in 2016 and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-third session in 2020 (see decision 2016/201 B).

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**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

# Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings

## I. Introduction

1. At its thirtieth session, in 1997, the Commission on Population and Development authorized its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions on a yearly basis (see E/1997/25, para. 52). The Commission subsequently stressed the importance of making available written reports on those meetings at the earliest opportunity (see Commission decision 2005/2) and requested its Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for the annual sessions of the Commission (see Commission resolution 2006/1).

2. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2015/252, in which the Council decided that at its forty-ninth session, in 2016, the Commission on Population and Development should review the functioning of its methods of work, the Chair of the Commission at its forty-ninth session decided to hold meetings of the Bureau starting in June 2015 to better prepare for the review. Thus, in accordance with resolution 2006/1, the Bureau held five meetings at United Nations Headquarters between June 2015 and January 2016, on the following dates: 30 June 2015, 15 September 2015, 10 November 2015, 17 December 2015 and 11 January 2016. At its fourth meeting, the Bureau decided to hold a fifth meeting, on 11 January 2016, devoted to the review of the methods of work of the Commission, and a sixth meeting, on 23 February 2016, to address remaining matters prior to the resumed session of the Commission, to be held from 11 to 15 April 2016.

3. The meetings of the Bureau were attended by the Chair, Mwaba Patricia Kasese-Bota of Zambia, or her representative (African Group), Ebrahim Alikhani of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Asia-Pacific Group), Oana Rebedea of Romania (Eastern European Group), Sara Luna (representing Patricia Chemor Ruiz) of Mexico (Latin American and Caribbean Group), and Nadine Skale of Germany

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(Western European and Others Group). Also present at these meetings were staff from the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Secretary of the Commission from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (as observers).

4. The present report summarizes the discussions of the Bureau at those meetings, including the conclusions reached and the recommendations made.

# II. Summary of the deliberations of the Bureau

## A. Future organization and methods of work of the Commission

5. At the conclusion of its forty-eighth session, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council that the Commission review its future organization and methods of work at its forty-ninth session, in 2016. At its fifty-fifth plenary meeting, on 22 July 2015, the Council adopted the recommendation of the Commission and decided that at the forty-ninth session of the Commission, in 2016, the Commission should review the functioning of its methods of work with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission and its contribution to the Council. The Council also requested the Secretariat, in consultation with Member States and UNFPA, to prepare a note for consideration by the Commission at its forty-ninth session on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission.

6. In accordance with the recommendation of the Commission and the decision of the Council, the Bureau of the forty-ninth session of the Commission began work on the review of the methods of work in mid-2015. At its first and second meetings, in June and September, the Bureau endorsed the following course of the consultation process for the review of the methods of work of the Commission: (a) a questionnaire to be sent by the Secretariat to all Member States; (b) a series of informal meetings with Member States by regional group; (c) at least one meeting open to all Member States. On 18 September, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, UNFPA and the regional commissions, sent a questionnaire on the methods of work to all Members States and a set of five open-ended questions on the same topic to relevant United Nations entities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The questionnaires and questions were also posted on the website of the Population Division. The deadline for submitting responses in both cases was first set for 23 October 2015 and then extended to 30 October.

7. In addition, the Secretariat assisted all five Bureau members in organizing informal meetings with their respective regional groups to help Member States to provide early feedback to the Secretariat and to focus their answers in completing the questionnaire. The following meetings with regional groups were organized: (a) 9 October: meeting with the Western European and Others Group; (b) 10 October: meeting with the Asia-Pacific Group; (c) 12 October: meeting with the Eastern European Group; (d) 13 October: meeting with the Latin American and Caribbean Group; and (e) 14 October: meeting with the African Group. Furthermore, the Chair and the Director of the Population Division organized a meeting on the methods of work at United Nations Headquarters open to all Member States on 23 November.

The meeting was attended by representatives from nearly 70 Member States. Information from the questionnaire, the five open-ended questions, the meetings with the regional groups and the meeting with all Member States would inform the note by the Secretariat on the methods of work.

8. At its third meeting, on 10 November 2015, the Chair announced that she would table a resolution (or a decision) on the methods of work of the Commission. The Bureau welcomed the decision of the Chair.

9. At its fourth meeting, on 17 December 2015, the Bureau decided to hold a meeting on 11 January 2016 devoted exclusively to the review of the methods of work of the Commission, to be followed by an additional round of meetings with regional groups on the same topic. The following meetings were organized: 12 January (Western European and Others Group); 13 January (Latin American and Caribbean Group); 14 January (two separate meetings with the African Group and the Eastern European Group); and 15 January (Asia-Pacific Group).

10. At its fifth meeting, on 11 January 2016, the Director presented to the Bureau a proposed outline of the note by the Secretariat on the methods of work of the Commission. The Bureau welcomed the outline and agreed with the proposal to share it with all Member States during the regional consultations scheduled for later in the week.

## B. Organization of work for the forty-ninth session of the Commission

11. On the basis of the provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session adopted by the Commission at the conclusion of the forty-eighth session, the Bureau approved a draft organization of work for the forty-ninth session and recommended it for adoption by the Commission. Given the link between agenda items 5 and 7, the Bureau decided to consider them jointly on Thursday morning, 14 April. This should be followed by the adoption of a resolution (or decision) on the methods of work on Thursday morning. The adoption of the resolution on the special theme on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda and other decisions was scheduled to take place on Friday afternoon, 15 April. Secondly, in accordance with this proposal, the Bureau decided to schedule agenda item 6, "Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population", for the morning of Friday, 15 April. Thirdly, the Bureau decided to schedule two 60-minute keynote presentations, including interactive debates on Monday, 11 April, and Tuesday, 12 April, from noon to 1 p.m. An expert panel and interactive discussion would take place on Wednesday, 13 April, from 3 to 4.30 p.m. In drafting the provisional organization of work, the Bureau attempted to balance the work in the plenary with informal consultations, providing time slots on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon devoted exclusively to the informal consultations, with no overlap with the plenary session. The Bureau noted, however, that it was always the prerogative of the facilitator(s) to decide on the correct timing of informal consultations. In the light of the need for informal consultations to consider both a draft resolution on the special theme and a draft resolution (or decision) on the methods of work, the Bureau decided to begin informal consultations on the draft proposals two weeks prior to the resumption of the session. At the fifth Bureau meeting, the Bureau therefore decided to begin informal consultations on Tuesday, 29 March 2016. During the first week of informal consultations, the focus would be

on the draft resolution (or decision) on the methods of work. Informal consultations on the special theme and any other decisions were tentatively scheduled to begin on Monday, 4 April.

## C. Opening statements and special guest

12. In keeping with the practice of recent years, the Bureau endorsed the proposal by the Chair to invite the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UNFPA and the Director of the Population Division to speak at the opening of the forty-ninth session. In view of the special theme of the session, the Chair proposed also to invite the Chair of the Statistical Commission to make a brief statement under agenda item 3, to underline the importance of the work of the Commission in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## D. Keynote speakers

13. In its decision 2005/2, the Commission welcomed the format of inviting keynote speakers to address the sessions of the Commission and requested the Bureau to make the necessary arrangements for their participation and to inform States members of the Commission accordingly. Pursuant to that decision, the Bureau decided that two individuals would be invited to address the Commission during the designated times slots on Monday, 11 April, and Tuesday, 12 April. On Monday morning, the keynote speaker would address the following topic: "The demographic evidence base and indicators for the 2030 Agenda: a global overview", whereas on Tuesday morning, the keynote speaker would focus on the topic "Integration of traditional and new data sources and technologies: from censuses to big data". The Bureau also decided to organize an expert panel to be followed by an interactive discussion of four speakers (with a moderator) during the designated time slot on Wednesday, 13 April, to address the topic of "Uses of the demographic evidence base for development policy and programme planning and monitoring".

14. For each speaking role, the Bureau agreed on a slate of at least two candidates, ranked in order of preference, and requested that the Secretariat invite the speakers. It was agreed that should one or more of the preferred speakers not be available, the Secretariat would proceed through the list until an available speaker was identified and confirmed. The Bureau requested that the Secretariat accord high priority to achieving gender balance, broad regional representation and diversity of expertise in compiling the slate of speakers and panellists. Also, the Secretariat would keep the Chair and other Bureau members well informed about this process as it unfolded.

## E. Participation of relevant United Nations entities in the forty-ninth session of the Commission

15. The Bureau noted that the topic of the forty-ninth session was relevant to the work of many entities of the United Nations system. With this in mind, it was agreed that the Chair would inform all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system of the dates and the theme of the session and encourage them to participate actively and to consider organizing side events during the session.

## F. Communication of the Chair with all Member States, including members of the Commission

16. The Bureau requested the Chair to write to all Member States informing them of the importance of the forthcoming session, especially with a view to the special theme and its contribution to the ongoing discussion on the population-related elements of the new development agenda. In addition, the Chair would inform Member States that the forty-ninth session would consider future methods of work of the Commission and discuss how to make the Commission function more effectively. Thus, the Commission may discuss ways and means to better contribute to the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and to the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Chair was also asked to inform Member States about how to access preliminary versions of the documentation for the session, to provide an overview of the different agenda items of the session and to encourage delegations, in accordance with resolution 2006/1, to invite technical experts to join their delegations. In the communication to members of the Commission, the Chair would also explain the schedule of informal consultations and provide more detail on keynote presentations and the panel discussion.

## G. Relationship between the Commission and the Economic and Social Council

17. The Bureau agreed that the President of the Economic and Social Council would make a contribution to the work of the forty-ninth session of the Commission and requested the Chair of the Bureau to invite him to launch the discussion on agenda item 5, "General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the Economic and Social Council theme in 2016 on 'Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results'".

## H. Themes for future sessions of the Commission

18. The Bureau recalled decision 2015/101 of the Commission, by which the Commission had decided (a) that the special theme for its forty-ninth session would be "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda" and (b) to postpone the decision on the special theme for its fiftieth session, in 2017, until its forty-ninth session pending the decision of the Council on its annual theme for 2017. In deciding on a theme, the Bureau took note of the themes that the Commission had covered in the recent past as well as known events and activities in other relevant bodies of the United Nations, especially the General Assembly.

19. Given that the Economic and Social had not yet decided its annual theme for 2017, Bureau members requested that a decision on the Bureau's recommendation to the Commission regarding the special theme of the fiftieth session be postponed until the spring of 2016, once the annual theme of the Council for 2017 had been decided. For the special theme of the Commission in 2018, the Bureau decided to recommend that the Commission postpone its decision until 2017, in order to align the theme of the Commission with the annual theme of the Council and the cycle of review of the Sustainable Development Goals in the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

## I. Resolutions and decisions

20. The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting the following resolutions and decisions: (a) a decision on the special theme for the fiftieth session in 2017, and a decision on the postponement of the decision on the theme for the fifty-first session in 2018; (b) a decision on the provisional agenda for the fiftieth session in 2017; (c) a resolution on the special theme of the forty-ninth session; and (d) a resolution (or decision) on the methods of work of the Commission.

21. Thus, the Chair requested the Secretariat to assist in the preparation of a zero draft of the resolution on the special theme, drawing on the main conclusions of the reports of the Secretary-General prepared for the session, also taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other key elements of the ongoing discussion about the 2030 Agenda, including the indicator framework for the monitoring of the goals and targets at the global level. In addition, the Secretariat would prepare drafts of the procedural decisions on the special theme for the fiftieth session in 2017 and for the fifty-first session in 2018 and on the provisional agenda for the fiftieth session in 2017.

22. The Chair also requested the Secretariat to assist in the preparation of a zero draft of a resolution (or decision) on the methods of work of the Commission. The zero draft would be informed by the note by the Secretariat on the methods of work and the report of the Secretary-General on the critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, as mandated by the General Assembly in paragraph 90 of its resolution 70/1.

23. The Chair planned to distribute the zero draft of the resolution (or decision) on the methods of work of the Commission on Monday, 7 March, followed by the distribution of the zero draft of the procedural decisions and the resolution on the special theme on Monday, 14 March.

## J. Availability of documents for the Commission

24. The Bureau stressed the importance of the timely availability of documents for the forty-ninth session of the Commission to facilitate the preparation of statements by delegations. Therefore, the Bureau endorsed the posting on the Internet of unedited, English-only versions of all Commission documents as soon as they become available, in advance of their release in the six official languages of the United Nations.

## K. Briefings for Member States

25. The Bureau recommended that three briefings be held in New York in preparation for the forty-ninth session, with the following tentative dates: (a) briefing on organizational matters and logistics (7 March); (b) briefing on thematic reports (22 March); and (c) briefing for NGOs (5 April).

## L. Participation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

26. According to the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and Council resolution 1996/31, NGOs may

participate in the annual session of the Commission. The Bureau agreed that, as in prior years, the Secretariat would host a web page, in collaboration with the NGO Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for the purpose of registering participants affiliated with NGOs in consultative status with the Council. The web page would also contain detailed instructions for submitting written and oral statements before the session. The web page would go live on 11 November 2015 and remain open until 31 March 2016.

27. The submission of NGO written statements would be accepted from 11 November until 11 December. The first 20 NGO statements received would be issued by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management as official documents, without formal editing, but translated into the three working languages of the Council (English, French and Spanish). As in previous years, the Secretariat would review and lightly edit the written statements, as needed. Submission of requests to deliver oral statements would be possible from 11 November 2015 until 8 April 2016. The inclusion of NGO presenters on the list of speakers would be made on a "first come, first served" basis and would depend on the time available. There would be no guarantees that an oral statement could be delivered at the session.

## III. Recommendations of the Bureau

28. **The Bureau recommended the adoption of the draft organization of work for the forty-ninth session of the Commission.**

29. **The Bureau decided that two keynote speakers and a panel of four experts and one moderator would be invited to address the Commission on various aspects of the special theme of the forty-ninth session, "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda".**

30. **The Bureau requested that the Chair inform all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system of the dates and the special theme of the session and encourage them to participate actively therein and to consider organizing side events during the session.**

31. **The Bureau requested that the Chair write to all members of the Commission to inform them of the dates of the session and to remind them of the special theme, suggesting under which agenda item interventions were welcome, informing them about how to access preliminary versions of the documentation for the session and underscoring the desirability of having technical experts as part of their delegations. In addition, the Chair would inform members of the Commission about the keynote speakers and panellists and about the dates for the informal consultations on draft proposals and any other relevant information concerning those consultations.**

32. **The Bureau requested that the Chair write to States not members of the Commission to inform them of the dates and the theme of the session and to provide information on how to access preliminary versions of the documentation for the session.**

33. **The Bureau decided to invite the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UNFPA and the Director of the Population Division to participate in the opening of the forty-ninth session of the Commission. In addition, the**

**Bureau decided to invite the Chair of the Statistical Commission to address the Commission under item 3 of the provisional agenda and to invite the President of the Economic and Social Council to address the Commission under item 5 of the provisional agenda.**

34. **The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting the following resolutions and decisions: (a) a decision on the special theme for the fiftieth session in 2017, and a decision on the postponement of the decision on the theme for the fifty-first session in 2018; (b) a decision on the provisional agenda for the fiftieth session in 2017; (c) a resolution on the special theme of the forty-ninth session; and (d) a resolution or decision on the Commission's methods of work. It proposed informal consultations beginning on Tuesday, 29 March 2016 on the draft resolution (or decision) on the methods of work, followed by consultations on the draft resolution on the special theme beginning on Monday, 4 April.**

35. **The Bureau recommended that the Commission postpone its decision on the special theme for its fifty-first session in 2018 until its fiftieth session in 2017, while postponing until the spring of 2016 a decision on its recommendation to the Commission regarding the special theme of the fiftieth session, in order to align the theme of the Commission with the annual theme of Economic and Social Council.**

36. **The Bureau recommended that unedited, English-only versions of all Commission documents be posted on the Internet as soon as they became available, in advance of their release in the six official languages of the United Nations.**

37. **The Bureau requested the Secretariat to organize three briefings prior to the resumption of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, with the following tentative dates: (a) briefing on organizational matters and logistics (7 March); (b) briefing on thematic reports (22 March); and briefing for NGOs (5 April). In addition, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to organize an informal retreat on the thematic reports of the session as well as the note by the Secretariat on the methods of work. The retreat, if a venue and sponsor could be found, was scheduled to be held on 3 March 2016.**

38. **As in previous years, the Bureau endorsed the proposal of the Secretariat to host a web page for the registration of NGOS in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, in collaboration with the NGO Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The web page would go live on 11 November 2015 and remain open until 31 March 2016. The submission of NGO written statements would be accepted from 11 November until 11 December, whereas the submission of requests to deliver oral statements would be accepted from 11 November 2015 until 8 April 2016. The inclusion of NGO presenters on the list of speakers would be made on a "first come, first served" basis and would depend on the time available. There would be no guarantees that an oral statement could be made at the session.**